

**From:** Kathy Wheeler  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 3:09pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I am not a US citizen or resident, but I hope you will not discount this communication out of hand - just because I am not a potential voter in your elections.

I live and work in Australia. For years my computer operating systems of choice have been non-windows, non-microsoft systems.

Because of Microsoft's business practices and our comparatively small market, it has been increasingly difficult to get the products and support I require for non-microsoft products.

I DO NOT WISH TO USE MICROSOFT PRODUCTS AND FEEL STRONGLY THAT BEING FORCED TO USE THEM IS A VIOLATION OF MY BASIC RIGHTS.

The settlement you have reached with microsoft is known worldwide within the industry to be politically motivated. It is also recognised worldwide as woefully inadequate. It will make no appreciable change to microsoft practices - especially overseas out of your direct jurisdiction.

The discarded solution of splitting microsoft up was never going to work. microsoft were way ahead of you there as well. I will not pretend to know of an effective solution, but I will say that if you do not act wisely and decisively now, you will be instrumental in creating an enormous rod for everyone's back - not just your own.

Please put aside political pressure if that is at all possible, and try to do what is best for ALL IT innovation, not just microsofts'.

I have some hopes that a positive and forward thinking result in the US anti-trust case may convince microsoft to reconsider its practices worldwide, or at the very least open the eyes of the technically naive public to microsofts' underhanded tactics. As it stands, every decision to date has been mis-interpreted by a high proportion of the general community as a vindication of microsofts' position - flying in the face of the evidence to the contrary. That is the power of the microsoft spin-machine. That is one of the biggest challenges you face.

Good luck and regards,  
Katherine Wheeler  
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